



# Action stations

Get cracking on your action project and get your paperwork in order to score piles of marks before setting foot in the exam

## THE ACTION PROJECT REPORT

Don't forget that the action project report is worth 60 per cent of the marks in CSPE, so make sure that it's well under control. At this stage in the year, schools will be at different stages in the project, so what's said here may not apply to your situation.

In some schools, the project is done and written up in second year; it's just waiting somewhere in the school to be 'bagged' – that is, put in a special (usually blue) bag, sealed, signed for, and stored away until CSPE exam day, when you'll add your CSPE paper to the outer pocket of this bag. The bagging usually takes place after Easter when the Department of Education and Science sends the official materials.

I find, however, that most schools leave the action project until third year. Usually it will at least be started in the first term. After completion, perhaps just before or shortly after Christmas, it has to be written up in an official booklet from the Department.

Teachers tend to photocopy this or print it from the internet so you can do a draft version first. The teacher will then give you feedback, leading to your revisions. At some stage, and I'd say many schools wouldn't have got this far yet, you will get a time, perhaps under exam-type conditions, to copy your revised version into the official booklet. These will be stored in school until bagging time, when you will sign for them.

In some schools you will be marked on the first draft or the revised version for the mock exams, which makes sense – any mark you get for a mock exam that only features the written exam paper will not give a true idea of how you will do in the Junior Certificate Exam.

At this stage I'll assume that the activities of the project are completed and all that remains is the writing up. There are two options – most students fill in the Report on Action Project (RAP), while a very small number fills in the Course Work Assessment Book (CWAB), which involves reporting on the action project and on some class-based activities.

If you haven't yet seen what these look like, you can check them out at [slss.ie](http://slss.ie) – follow the links to CSPE, then to Downloads, then to "Proforma Report on an Action Project (RAP)" and "Proforma Course-Work Assessment Book (CWAB)".

It's very important to fill these in yourself. Of course the teacher will guide you, but write in your own words, and don't copy from other students.

## GUIDELINES FOR FILLING IN THE RAP

### Section 1: The title of my action project

Don't just write "My project" – the title should give the reader an idea of what the project was about, and what kind of project it was (eg "Learning about democracy through a mock election").

As it's an action project, it's useful to include an action word, an '-ing word': eg investigating, surveying, organising. Here, you will also need to tick some boxes to indicate what actions were part of the action project.

If the actions listed don't suit (unlikely), there's a space for "other". You need not tick all boxes, just those that apply to your project.

### Section 2: Introduction

## THE SEVEN CONCEPTS OF CSPE

- ◆ Law
- ◆ Stewardship
- ◆ Rights and responsibilities
- ◆ Human dignity
- ◆ Interdependence
- ◆ Democracy
- ◆ Development

Here you'll find listed the seven concepts of CSPE (see above). Tick one or more that related to your action project – eg if you did a mock trial you'll tick "Law", if you did a student council election, you'll tick "Democracy".

You'll then have a few lines to explain how your action project linked to this concept, eg "Our student council election was related to democracy because our students voted their representatives onto the council".

Here, you'll also be asked why you did this project. Don't write "The teacher told us to do it". It might be something like "We did this mock election to find out how democracy works" or "We held an awareness day for Concern to encourage students to take on the Christmas fast".

### Section 3: Activities undertaken

In Section 3(a), once again you'll be ticking boxes, this time to show what people you communicated with during the action project – eg students in the class, or people in the community. If nothing in the list given suits (again, this is unlikely), there's an "other" section.